Amendment to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4, 8-10, 14, 22 and 25. Please cancel claims 16-21 and claims 26-34.

1. (Currently Amended) A communications method in an interactive session comprising:
arranging scalable media data into data structures formatted in accordance with a content independent indexable data structure format including one or more fields indicating a level of scalability;
organizing the arranged scalable media data in a bit stream in which a plurality of levels of scalability of the scalable media data coexist ~~providing scalable media data~~;
organizing the scalable media data into a plurality of subparts;
~~providing~~ receiving a plurality of data requests from a plurality of participants requesting different ones of the subparts during user interaction with the media data, wherein at least two of the participants support different levels of scalability for the media data;
~~after the providing the data requests, scaling respective ones of the requested subparts of the scalable media data according to receiving attributes of the respective participants~~
retrieving from the bit stream using the format of the content independent indexable data structures respective ones of the requested subparts at levels of scalability corresponding to receiving attributes of the respective participants; and

communicating the ~~scaled~~ subparts at the retrieved levels of scalability to respective ones of the participants.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing random subparts corresponding to the data requests, and wherein the scaling comprising scaling the accessed subparts.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving attributes relate to unique parameters of the participants with respect to at least one communications bandwidth,

display resolution, and processing capacity.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~communicating an initial one of the subparts to the participants, and wherein the receiving is responsive to the communicating~~ performing transcoding operations without decoding the media data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the initial one of the subparts corresponds to an initial visual image to be depicted by the participants, and the forwarding of the initial one of the subparts comprises forwarding a plurality of data streams of different amounts of data corresponding to the receiving attributes of the respective participants.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising depicting the initial visual image at a plurality of different resolutions using the participants and responsive to the data streams comprising different amounts of data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising depicting visual images of the media data using the participants, wherein the initial one of the subparts comprises an initial visual image, and the data requests correspond to interactive commands generated by the participants requesting additional views of the initial visual image.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising: ~~accessing an index of the scalable media data responsive to the user interaction; and identifying the respective ones of the requested subparts using the index~~ performing transcoding operations without knowledge of the data content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising performing transcoding operations without decrypting the media data. ~~wherein the providing the scalable media data comprises providing scalable media data configured to be scaled according to at least one scalability attribute, and the scaling comprises matching the scalability attribute and the respective ones of the receiving attributes for the respective participants~~ .

10. (Currently Amended) A interactive communications session organizer comprising:

an interface configured to communicatively couple with a plurality of participants during an interactive media communications session; and

processing circuitry coupled with the interface and configured

~~to access a plurality of data requests from the participants during the communications session, to identify a plurality of subparts of scalable media data responsive to the requests,~~

~~to scale the subparts of the media data according to respective receiving attributes of the participants, and~~

~~to output the scaled media data to respective ones of the participants~~

to arrange scalable media data into data structures formatted in accordance with a content independent indexable data structure format including one or more fields indicating a level of scalability;

to organize the arranged scalable media data in a bit stream in which a plurality of levels of scalability of the scalable media data coexist

to organize the scalable media data into a plurality of subparts;

to receive a plurality of data requests from a plurality of participants requesting different ones of the subparts during user interaction with the media data, wherein at least two of the participants support different levels of scalability for the media data;

to retrieve from the bit stream using the format of the content independent indexable data structures respective ones of the requested subparts at levels of scalability corresponding to receiving attributes of the respective participants; and

to communicate the subparts at the retrieved levels of scalability to respective ones of the participants.

11. (Original) The organizer of claim 10 further comprising storage circuitry configured to store the scalable media data.

12. (Original) The organizer of claim 10 wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to communicate an initial one of the subparts of scalable media data corresponding to an initial visual image to be depicted by the

participants, and the communicated initial one of the subparts comprises a plurality of data streams of different amounts of data corresponding to the receiving attributes of the respective participants.

13. (Original) The organizer of claim 10 wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to communicate an initial one of the subparts of scalable media data corresponding to an initial visual image to be depicted by the participants, and wherein the data requests correspond to interactive commands generated by the participants requesting additional visual images related to the initial visual image.

14. (Currently Amended) The organizer of claim 10 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to ~~access an index using the data requests to identify the subparts~~ to perform transcoding operations without knowledge of the data content.

15. (Original) The organizer of claim 10 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to receive the receiving attributes from the participants, and further comprising storage circuitry configured to store the receiving attributes.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

processor-usable media comprising programming configured to cause processing circuitry of an organizer for an interactive communication session to:

~~access scalable media data comprising a plurality of subparts;~~

~~access a plurality of data requests from a plurality of participants coupled with the organizer and configured to identify different ones of the subparts;~~

~~access a plurality of receiving attributes for respective ones of the participants;~~

~~scale the identified subparts according to respective ones of the receiving attributes; and~~

~~communicate the scaled subparts to the participants~~

arrange scalable media data into data structures formatted in accordance with a content independent indexable data structure format including one or more fields indicating a level of scalability;

organize the arranged scalable media data in a bit stream in which a plurality of levels of scalability of the scalable media data coexist

organize the scalable media data into a plurality of subparts;

receive a plurality of data requests from a plurality of participants requesting different ones of the subparts during user interaction with the media data, wherein at least two of the participants support different levels of scalability for the media data;

retrieve from the bit stream using the format of the content independent indexable data structures respective ones of the requested subparts at levels of scalability corresponding to receiving attributes of the respective participants; and

communicate the subparts at the retrieved levels of scalability to respective ones of the participants.

23. (Original) The article of claim 22 wherein the programming is configured to cause processing circuitry to communicate an initial one of the subparts corresponding to an initial visual image to be depicted by the participants, and the data requests are received in the organizer responsive to the communication of the initial subpart.

24. (Original) The article of claim 23 wherein the programming is configured to cause processing circuitry to scale the initial subpart using the receiving

attributes, and wherein the communication of the initial subpart comprises communicating a plurality of data streams of different amounts of data to respective ones of the participants.

25. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 22 wherein the programming is configured to cause processing circuitry to: ~~access an index of the scalable media data responsive to the data requests; and identifying the respective ones of the different subparts using the index~~ to perform transcoding operations without knowledge of the data content.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).